

SENATE BILL 3144  
By Southerland

AN ACT to name a bridge on Merchants/Greene Boulevard (State Route 66) in Hamblen County in honor of Dr. Hubert J. Bell, Jr.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those exemplary citizens whose respective family histories are irrevocably intertwined with the panoramic history and proud heritage of this great State; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than Dr. Hubert J. Bell, Jr., a native of Morristown and Hamblen County who has gone on to earn honor and acclaim and make significant contributions in the fields of dentistry and orthodontics; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hubert J. Bell, Jr. is the grandson of James Houston Bell, a veteran of the War Between the States and a signer and founder of Hamblen County; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to Tennessee after his military service, James Houston Bell purchased 125 acres near Morristown on August 23, 1869, for \$2,500; on this land, he built his family's home which he named Bellwood; Bellwood remains in the Bell family today; and

WHEREAS, published by Dr. Hubert J. Bell, Jr. and the Westview Press, the book, *The Bell Family History: Past and Present*, records the significant contributions James Houston Bell and his descendants have made to the culture and history of Hamblen County and the great State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hubert Bell, who currently resides at the Bellwood estate, carries on his family's proud history of good citizenship and public service, enriching the Morristown community through his astute leadership and philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, the son of Hubert James Bell, Sr. and Mabel Byrd Durham Bell, Hubert J. Bell, Jr. graduated from Morristown High School, from which he has received the Distinguished Alumni Award; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bell served with the United States military for three and one-half years during World War II and the Korean War, fighting to protect the freedoms and principles we all hold dear; and

WHEREAS, after receiving his D.D.S. degree, Dr. Bell practiced Orthodontics and Dento-Facial Orthopaedics for thirty-five years in Boulder, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, a tireless contributor to the dental profession, Dr. Bell has served as President of the American Association of Orthodontics, Honorary President of the Third World Orthodontic Congress, and President and member of numerous local and international organizations concerned with dentistry and orthodontics; he has also been elected to membership in the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bell has served as an orthodontic consultant to the United States Air Force Academy and Chairman of the Board of Delta Dental Corporation, and was a founder and organizer of the College of Diplomats of the American Board of Orthodontics; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hubert Bell epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly deems it appropriate to name a certain bridge on Merchants/Greene Boulevard (State Route 66) in honor of Dr. Hubert J. Bell, Jr. to permanently commemorate his bountiful life of purpose and commitment; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the bridge spanning the railroad tracks on Merchants/Greene Boulevard (State Route 66) in Hamblen County is hereby designated the "Dr. Hubert J. Bell, Jr. Bridge" as a lasting tribute to a consummate professional, gifted dentist, and even more accomplished human being.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "Dr. Hubert J. Bell, Jr. Bridge".

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.